

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-05 SAM-01 EB-07 /092 W
----- 126822

O P 131800Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6975

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5530

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS, GI

SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

1. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY. SILENCE HERE CONTINUES ON PROGRESS OF
MADRID TALKS, ALTHOUGH WE NOTE FBIS LONDON (131257Z NOV 75)
ITEM ON NOV 13 MADRID RADIO REPORT THAT TALKS WILL END NOV 13
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AND THAT A COMMUNIQUE MAY BE ISSUED.

2. WESTERN JOURNALIST TOLD DCM NOV 13 THAT CURIOUS INCLUSION IN GOM DELEGATION OF MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS EL-KHATTABI DUE LATTER'S FLUENCY IN SPANISH. JOURNALIST ALSO SPECULATED THAT A MOROCCAN OFFER TO COOPERATE WITH SPAIN IN ITS CAMPAIGN TO RECOVER GIBRALTAR MIGHT EXPLAIN MOROCCAN LABOR MINISTER'S PRESENCE, NOTING THAT HUNDREDS OF MOROCCAN LABORERS PERFORMING VITAL CHORES IN GIBRALTAR.

3. GOM APPEARED TO ESCALATE ITS DIFFERENCES WITH USSR OVER SAHARA BY BREAKING RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY NOV 13 (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. NOV 12 MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDIENE TO SPANISH PRIMIN LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN SCENARIO WHICH GIVING MANY OBSERVERS ACUTE FEELINGS OF DEJA VU. ALGERIAN EMBOFF TOLD EMBOFF NOV 12 THAT SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS INITIATED MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE IN WHICH MESSAGE WAS PASSED.

5. AN ALGERIAN VIEW. IN SAME CONVERSATION, ALGERIAN EMBOFF EXPRESSED VIEW THAT KING COULD NOT HAVE HAD DEFINITIVE SPANISH AGREEMENTS WHEN HE CALLED OFF SAHARA MARCH, OR ELSE HE WOULD HAVE TOLD HIS PEOPLE AT THE TIME. CALLED KING'S PULLBACK DECISION "COURAGEOUS." ALGERIAN ALSO SAID THAT MAURITANIANS WOULD BE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO SIT IN CONFERENCE OF FOUR AND LAMENTED THAT IF ONLY MOROCCANS WOULD "SOFTEN" THEIR POSITION "JUST A LITTLE" AND AGREE TO SIT IN CONFERENCE OF FOUR " EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING, COULD BE SETTLED."

6. OPPOSITION VIEWS. OPPOSITION PRESS NOV 13 CONTINUED TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ISTIQLAL'S AL ALAM PURSUED THEME THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE PREMISED ON GOM SOVEREIGNTY OF SAHARA AND THAT UN ROLE ONLY SUITABLE IF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS FAIL. AL MOUHARIRR (USFP) SEIZED ON BOUMEDIENE STATEMENT MADE IN NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR INTERVIEW (RABAT 5455) IN WHICH HE SAID ALGERIA INTENDS TO PROCESS DJEBILET MINERAL RESOURCES AT THE SOURCE. AL MOUHARIRR NOTED THAT ALGERIA ALWAYS CRITICIZES MOROCCO FOR NOT RATIFYING BORDER AGREEMENT, BUT ALGERIA NOW SEEMS TO INTEND VIOLATING SAME AGREEMENT BY IGNORING CLAUSES CALLING FOR JOINT EXPLOITATION OF THESE ASSETS.
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7. COMMENT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION OVER POSSIBLE OVERALL GOM/GOS DEAL INVOLVING NOT ONLY SAHARA BUT CEUTA, MELILLA, AND CONCERTED ACTION ON GIBRALTAR, BUT WE DOUBT WHETHER THESE HIGHLY COMPLEX ISSUES COULD BE TREATED IN ANYTHING BUT GENERAL WAY AT THIS TIME,IF AT ALL. NEVERTHELESS, GOM ABILITY TO AID SPANISH ON GIBRALTAR WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL, FOR MOROCCO IS NOT ONLY GIBRALTAR'S PRIMARY LABOR SOURCE BUT PROVIDES CLOSEST

SOURCE OF OEYER SUPPLIES FOR ROJE #
POPULATION.

8. DIFFICULT TO JUDGE SIGNIFICANCE OF ALGERIAN EMBOFF'S
"REASONED" APPEAL FOR MODIFICATION OF MOROCCAN POSITION TO PERMIT
INCLUSION OF ALGERIANS, BUT MOROCCANS REMAIN STEADFASTLY COMMITTED
TO AVOID SITTING ANYWHERE, ANYTIME WITH ALGERIANS FOR SAHARA
DISCUSSIONS, AT LEAST UNTIL MOROCCANS HAVE SEWN UP FINAL DEAL
WITH SPANISH AND, PRESUMABLY, MAURITANIANS.
NEUMANN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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